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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**SACRAMENTO MAN SENTENCED TO  
FIFTEEN MONTHS FOR CREDIT CARD FRAUD**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that Erich J. Mathias, 40, of Sacramento was sentenced today by United States District Judge David F. Levi to fifteen months incarceration, \$10,000 restitution, and \$100 special assessment. The defendant pleaded guilty to one count of credit card fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. Section 1029(a)(2) on May 22, 2003.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Laura L. Swartz, who is prosecuting the case, the defendant began working as a graphic artist and sales representative for Outword News Magazine, a Sacramento publication. At the time the defendant was hired, he was on federal supervised release for a conviction of mail fraud. Over the years of his employment, the defendant's duties expanded to other office and managerial responsibilities related to paying bills and preparing payroll. The defendant admitted that from on or about December 1, 2000 to on or about December 1, 2001, in the Eastern District of California, he knowingly and with intent to defraud used two unauthorized access devices involving his employer's identification information and obtained items of value in excess of \$1,000.

This case is the product of a joint investigation by the Sacramento Valley Hi Tech Crimes Task Force and the United States Secret Service.